

Eight individuals representing various stakeholder groups provided comments during the public comment period. The public comments were structured similarly to the peer review, where they were asked to rank the proposed changes relative to the existing guidelines for each of the 4 revision categories (Infrastructure, biomass guidelines, leave trees, and RMZ guidelines) with the following questions:

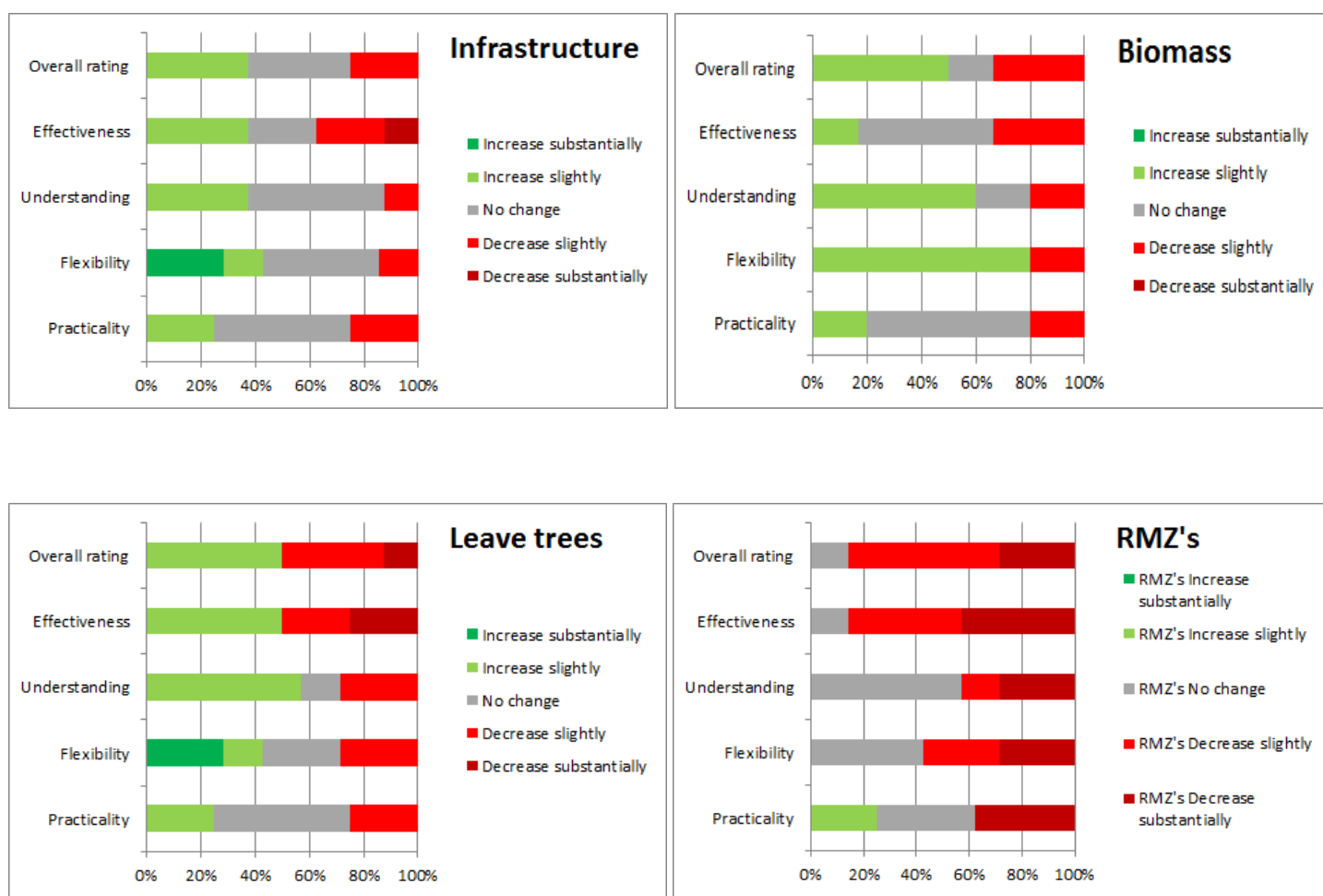
**Practicality** - Are the proposed changes practical for mitigation of impacts to forest resources?

**Flexibility** - Will the proposed changes affect flexibility of guideline application in the field?

**Improved Understanding** - Will the changes improve understanding and application by user groups?

**Effectiveness** - Will the proposed changes be effective at mitigating impacts to forest resources while maintaining or improving operability of management activities?

The following figures show the public responses to these questions with each change ranking displayed as a percentage of the total response. Categories with predominantly green colors indicate increases, while those in red indicate decreases (e.g., decreased understanding relative to the current guideline)



## **Main themes and issues from the public general comments**

Individuals commenting for the public review were also asked to provide additional narrative comments in support of their rankings, or to expand on issues not addressed with the standardized questions. Some of the general themes and specific points are outlined below.

### **Biomass:**

Some comments recommended removing the silvicultural exceptions for FWD retention, but general support otherwise.

### **Infrastructure:**

Recommendation to add in additional language to emphasize limiting the total amount of infrastructure (i.e., emphasize that these are maximum amounts).

It was also noted that there are many other areas in guidebook which will need to be modified with this new guideline.

Otherwise there was general support for recommended changes.

### **Leave trees**

Support for and against the recommended changes

Recommendation to maintain emphasis on wildlife as primary reason for green tree retention

Criticism of inclusion of economic criteria without any guidance on how to evaluate it

Recommendation to keep leave trees in both lowlands (RMZ's) and uplands - should adjust the recommendation allowing RMZ area to count towards 5% retention to compensate for those situations where upland communities are distinctly different from those in riparian areas

### **RMZ's**

Very little support for the recommendations, with most comments focused on changing the 60 ft2 RBA to the RSTC recommendation of 75ft2.

One other comment not in support because it would restrict management of young forest near riparian areas, potentially impacting certain wildlife species.